

amount to be spent in next five years on non NHDP sections of National Highways.

(d) The steps taken include standardisation of bidding procedure, pre-qualification of contractors, supervision by independent engineer, provision for liquidated damages for delay and bonus for early completion, close monitoring of projects etc.

Development of National Highways on Priority Basis

1348. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are plans for development of National Highways on priority basis;

(b) if so, the amount enhanced by the Ministry of Finance for Central Road Fund (CRF); and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released for Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir. The development of National Highways is a continuous process and development works including widening to four/six lane under National Highway Development project are taken up in phased manner depending upon the traffic needs, condition of road, *inter-se* priority of works and availability of funds.

(b) The Central Road Fund has been revamped by levying a cess of Re. 1/- per litre on petrol and diesel. An amount equal to 57.5% of the cess on petrol and 28.75% of cess on diesel is being provided

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for development and maintenance of National Highways. During the current year, an amount of Rs. 2100 crore has been made available for development and maintenance of National Highways from Central Road Fund.

(c) An amount of Rs. 144.05 crore has been allocated to the State of Rajasthan for development and maintenance of National Highways during 2001-2002.

Funds for Maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat

1349. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought additional funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways;

(b) what is the scale on which funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways are made available and whether this grant is adequate; and

(c) the progress made in new construction and repairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The maintenance of the National Highways is a continuous process and funds are allotted on the basis of length of National Highway, terrain, traffic, availability of funds etc. An amount of Rs. 25.77 crore has been earmarked for allocation under maintenance & repairs of National Highways for the State of Gujarat during 2001-2002. Availability of funds for maintenance and repairs for National Highways is generally not adequate with respect to stipulated norms.